

Dear FCC:

As an extra class ham radio licensee (and as a General Class Radiotelephone licensee), I wish to express concern over the proposal to allow HF (2-80Mhz) radio transmissions over existing power lines (BPL). These HF bands are extremely sensitive to interference from many sources and very low signal levels can travel surprisingly far. The 27Mhz band, used by CB operators, for example, allows only 4 watts for transmission, but signals can regularly be heard from locations across the country and as a result, use of that band for it's intended purpose is almost useless beyond a mile or two. Since power lines are, in most cases, very near to us at all times, BPL will likely create a world-wide roaring background of interference in the HF band, rendering the HF band as useless as the CB band. Hams are not the only ones using the 2-80Mhz band. Law enforcement, ambulances, hospitals, businesses, fire, government, and others also share these frequencies. Many oxen will be gored. Moreover, those who legally use this band have high power transmitters, often between 100 and 1000 watts, and it seems likely these transmitters will be near power lines. How will such high power RF transmissions affect the BPL services?

Besides the effect of BPL on the HF environment, how will BPL transmissions be protected from eavesdropping, since even if encrypted, they will be radiating in all directions from every power line? Cable companies are severely regulated in how much radiation is allowed from their shielded cables, so they will not interfere with over-the-air transmissions. Why should BPL be given a blank check to pollute the existing bands? Thank you for your consideration.

Dan Peterson